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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 29 June 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 23 June 1998 (A/52/965-S/1998/559), I have the honour to draw your attention to further violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by 43 military aircraft and 2 military helicopters of the Turkish Air Force, which were recorded on 21, 22, 23 and 28 June 1998, only a few days after the violations mentioned in my previous letter.

More specifically, 16 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia flight information region, in violation of international air traffic regulations, while participating in an air and sea military exercise over international waters on 21, 22 and 23 June 1998.

On 23 June 1998 two of the above-mentioned Turkish military planes entered the Nicosia flight information region, violating the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, while flying over the area north of Rizokarpaso.

Furthermore, on 28 June 1998, 27 military aircraft (12 F-16s, 10 F-5s, 3 C-30s and 2 C-160s) of the Turkish air force entered the Nicosia flight information region, in violation of international air traffic regulations, from a north-easterly direction, violating the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, then exiting southwards. At the same time, two military helicopters violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

As stated in my previous letters, such violations of the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in complete disregard of the Charter of the United Nations as well as the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase political tension on the island, undermine efforts towards achieving a settlement and violate international air traffic rules.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish once again to strongly protest these new provocative violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey, a State Member of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotirios ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative